

REMARKS

Claims 1-32 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claims 1-8, 10-12, 14-23 and 25-32 are rejected.

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Erekson (U.S. Patent No. 6,622,018 B1).

Claims 22-23 and 25-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ohta (U.S. Publication No. 2001/0029531 A1).

Claims 6-8, 10-12, 14-15 and 17-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Erekson (U.S. Patent No. 6,622,018 B1) in view of Ohta (U.S. Publication No. 2001/0029531 A1).

Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Erekson (U.S. Patent No. 6,622,018 B1) and Ohta (U.S. Publication No. 2001/0029531 A1) to further include Mitchell et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0184496 A1).

Claim 32 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohta (U.S. Publication No. 2001/0029531 A1) in view of Erekson (U.S. Patent No. 6,622,018 B1).

The Applicants traverse the rejections and request reconsideration.

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the telephonic discussions on November 9, 2005. As explained in the interview, the remote devices in Erekson cannot be considered to be equivalent to the helper devices for several reasons. First, these devices are merely “controlled.” In that sense, they do not provide any “resource” as required by the present invention. Further, and more importantly, only control signals are transferred to the

remote devices in Erekson. On the other hand, in the present invention “data” is transferred to the helper device.

A. Claims 1-5

As noted above, claims 1-5 stand rejected under § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Erekson.

The present Specification clearly distinguishes “control” from “data.” For example, the last line of page 2 discusses control as separate from data. Further, each of the independent claim recites the resource that receive the date then processes the “data,” thereby clarifying that only data (and not control signals) are implied. A skilled artisan would know that in a typical computer a resource does not perform processing of the control signals. The control signals merely trigger an action by the resource that receives the control signals

Specifically, Erekson merely describes that a controlling device can control a remote device. Therefore, only control signals are sent. As noted in the previous response, the controlling device disclosed in Erekson is similar to the PDAs of the Pebbles project, described in the background and related art section of Applicant’s specification (see Applicant’s specification: page 2).

Erekson fails to disclose any request of access to a resource of a helper device and/or transferring “data” to the resource. Instead, Erekson merely discloses that a controlling device can select a remote device to be controlled (Erekson: col. 2, lines 25-30). Thereafter, the controlling device sends commands (as opposed to “data”) to the remote device to control the remote device (Erekson: col. 8, lines 56-64).

Accordingly, claim 1 is not anticipated by Erekson. Consequently, claims 2-5 are not anticipated by Erekson, at least by virtue of their dependency.

B. Claims 22-23 and 25-31

As noted above, claims 22-23 and 25-31 stand rejected under § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Ohta.

As discussed in the amendment filed September 29, 2005, claim 22 requires a second means in the local device for controlling access to the resources of the local device. On the other hand, Ohta merely discloses that the print server 13 manages print requests or print jobs in a print queue by storing the print requests and sends each of the print jobs to a specified one of the print stations 12A, 12B and 12C (Ohta: paragraph 0037). If any of the print stations develops a problem such as a paper jam, the print server retransmits the print job to the restored print station while completed print jobs are released from the queue. Ohta fails to disclose that the print server 13 controls access to any resources of the print server. Instead, Ohta merely discloses the management of print requests/jobs.

Accordingly, claim 22 is not anticipated by Ohta. Consequently, claims 23 and 25-31 are not anticipated by Ohta, at least by virtue of their dependency.

A. Claims 6-8 and 10

Claims 6-8 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Erekson in view of Ohta.

Claim 6 includes the features related to “data” and the resources processing the data as discussed above in relation to claim 1. Therefore, the arguments discussed above in relation to

claim 1 are equally valid. Further, Ohta does not cure the deficiency noted in the teachings of Erekson.

Further, neither Erekson nor Ohta discloses controlling access to a resource of a helper device. Accordingly, claim 6 is not rendered obvious by the proposed combination of Erekson in view of Ohta. Consequently, claims 8 and 10 are patentable over Erekson in view of Ohta, at least by virtue of their dependency.

B. Claims 11-12, 14-15 and 17-20

As noted above, claims 11-12, 14-15 and 17-20 stand rejected under § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Erekson in view of Ohta;

Claim 11 recites features similar to those found in claim 6. Therefore, the arguments discussed above are equally valid. Claims 12, 14-15 and 17-20 are patentable over Erekson in view of Ohta, at least by virtue of their dependency.

C. Claim 16

As noted above, claim 16 stands rejected under § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Erekson in view of Ohta, and further including Mitchell.

Mitchell does not overcome the deficiencies noted in the combined teachings Erekson and Ohta. Therefore, claim 16 is patentable over the proposed combination of Erekson in view of Ohta, and further in view of Mitchell, at least by virtue of its dependency.

D. Claim 32

As noted above, claim 32 stands rejected under § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Ohta in view of Erekson.

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Patent Application No.: 09/986,698

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Claim 32 is patentable over the proposed combination of Ohta in view of Erikson, at least by virtue of its dependency.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

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